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EPA REGION 3 ENVIRO-BYTES

A Wrap-Up of Issues & Events in EPA's
Mid-Atlantic Region
January 28, 2000

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EXEC ORDER REQUIRES STATE INPUT INTO REGS

A new executive order requires federal agencies to consult with state and local officials during the entire life cycle of new regulations that significantly affect the federal/state/local relationship--from early planning to formal rulemaking to implementation. It also requires a minimalist approach to federal preemption of state law.

HEARING ON ACID MINE RECLAMATION

On January 24, Regional Administrator Brad Campbell joined OSM, PADEP, a state representative, a local watershed manager, and two chambers of commerce in testifying before Congressmen Don Young (R-Ak), Don Sherwood (R-Pa), Paul Kanjorski (D-Pa), and Tim Holden (D-Pa) at a House Committee on Resources hearing in Scranton on acid mine reclamation and funding needs in Pennsylvania. Kanjorski plans to introduce a bill that would create an authority that uses federal dollars to pay back tax credits to investors willing to buy \$1.2 billion in bonds for reclamation and cleanup in 12 Pennsylvania counties.

GLENDENING BUDGET INCREASES ENVIRO \$ IN MD

When Gov. Parris Glendening unveiled his proposed Maryland state budget this week, it included \$60 million for water quality improvement projects statewide. Almost half the money, \$27.6 million, will go to improvements for Baltimore City's wastewater system, primarily for the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant. A record \$122 million will go to buying or preserving open space and farmland. The release of the capital budget caps a week of record construction spending proposals from the governor. Last week, the governor announced a record \$2.7 billion in transportation projects, including two projects to be paid for in part from the state's general fund: \$200 million for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge connecting Maryland and Virginia, and \$434 million for an extension of the Washington Metro's blue line in Prince George's County.

AARP MAGAZINE FEATURES CONSUMER CONFIDENCE PSAs

Modern Maturity, the magazine for the American Association of Retired Persons, will include a public service announcement on EPA's Consumer Confidence Reports in the upcoming March-April 2000 edition. The reports are being mailed along

with water bills to provide a profile of drinking water quality. Modern Maturity has a circulation of 8.7 million. and the ad space would cost about \$8,300.

EPA FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING IN YORK, PA

An EPA on-scene coordinator for hazardous waste provided a 32-hour hazardous materials response course for emergency responders in York County, Pa. The purpose of the class was to provide these responders the training necessary to become part of the county haz-mat team and to be able to mitigate and safely control spills of hazardous materials. The class included a full-scale exercise which tests the County Emergency Response Plan.

PLANTATION PIPELINE SPILL, FAIRFAX CO., VA

On January 26, EPA ordered Plantation Pipe Line Company to continue oil recovery and cleanup efforts along the Accotink Creek in Newington, Va. Plantation's main pipeline originates in Baton Rouge, La. and terminates at Newington. The facility supplies several bulk storage facilities and two airports with jet fuel, gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil and kerosene. On January 8, a device used to detect the product interface in the pipeline began leaking. The oil entered a storm sewer, flowed into a retention basin and then discharged into the Accotink Creek. A discharge of approximately 1,500 gallons of oil reached the Accotink Creek and its adjoining shoreline.

SEDIMENT FROM VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL PARK TESTED

On October 19, 1999 EPA collected 13 soil/sediment samples from areas of possible PCB contamination along the Valley Creek in the Valley Forge National Park, outside of Philadelphia. This sampling was conducted in response to the park's concerns regarding the possible exposure to sediments, which may have been contaminated with PCBs, that were deposited on the flood plain

in the Valley Forge National Park as a result of Hurricane Floyd. The sampling results indicate low levels of PCBs are present in the sediments; however, no samples exceeded EPA risk-based concentrations.

HIGHER ED LEARNS ABOUT ENERGY STAR

More than 100 college and university representatives attended an ENERGY STAR Buildings Partnership presentation, at EPA's Compliance at Colleges and Universities Conference, held at Johns Hopkins University. Conference participants were informed of the benefits and advantages of participating in ESB and encouraged to become a partner in the programs they prepare for EPA audits. In addition, environmental laws and regulations were reviewed, particularly hazardous waste handling and a discussion of the EPA Audit of Region I colleges/universities was provided.

PA GOV WANTS TO SPEND TOBACCO FUNDS ON HEALTH

Governor Ridge has proposed to spend every penny of Pennsylvania's \$11.3 billion from the national tobacco settlement on health initiatives. He sited a broad range of proposals designed to prevent smoking, help elderly afford home care, and provide health insurance to the uninsured. The \$11.3 billion figure is an estimate of what Pennsylvania expects over the next 25 years from the tobacco settlement. The largest piece of the Pennsylvania Health Investment Plan, 40%, or \$60 million a year would be earmarked for low cost health insurance for up to 100,000 residents. This may be an overestimate since there has been a drop in tobacco consumption. By dedicating all of the money to health care issues, Pennsylvania would be in the minority among states that have announced how they will spend their portions of the tobacco settlement money.

RENOVATION STUDY RESULTS ARE IN

The Residential Lead-Based Paint Reduction Act (Title X) of 1994 required EPA to conduct a study of lead exposure associated with renovation and remodeling activities to determine which groups of workers, if any, should be trained, certified, or otherwise educated to protect themselves or others from lead-based hazards resulting from renovation and remodeling activities. The Fourth Phase of the Renovation and Remodeling (R&R) Study has been completed and it was concluded that a relationship does exist between R&R activities and blood-levels of those performing R&R in old housing. The study indicated that for homeowners doing the R&R, paint removal/surface preparation resulted in a marginal increase in blood lead concentrations. It also indicated that carpenters, laborers, and painters performing cleanup, paint removal, surface preparation, and window and door replacements showed an increase in blood lead concentrations. Of those surveyed in this study, 67 percent of workers and 62 percent of homeowners had not received any education materials on lead hazards. Workers were nearly 11 times more likely to have blood-lead concentrations above 25 ug/dL than the general U.S. population, and homeowners were almost 30 times more likely to have blood-lead concentrations above 25 ug/dL than the general U.S. population.

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